



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report
November 2020

This Monthly Management Report is prepared in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and provided to the Elected Members for consideration and information.

Introduction by the Chief Executive

To Members,

This Monthly Management Report gives an overview of the on-going governance of Meath County Council at what is a very challenging time for the Council, the county and the country more generally. This report is being provided for your information and consideration.

The Covid-19 case numbers for Meath at this time are very worrying and it is to be hoped that the coming into force of the Level 5 restrictions on October 22nd will bring the desired flattening of the curve, locally and across the country.

The introduction of Level 5 has required us to make changes to some services and how we deliver these. As a local authority, most of our services are defined as essential and we remain open for business. A small number of services are currently not available and there are certain restrictions in terms of access to our buildings and public counters. Details of these are contained in this report.

As a public service organisation, we will continue to monitor and review how we are performing and our requirements to respond to the public health advice as it evolves. This will include a new and expanded role for the Community Call – Community Resilience Programme and I expect further details on this in the coming days.

The month of November will be an extremely busy one, with a budget to be adopted, as well as, the next phase of the County Development Plan review to complete. How we conduct our business will change and evolve during the pandemic but we now have additional legislative tools to enable us to be more agile in terms of holding Council meetings and other meetings.

I ask for your cooperation in making whatever new arrangements we have to put in place work and above all let us ensure that as a Council and as a county we come through this together safely and stronger.

Thank You,

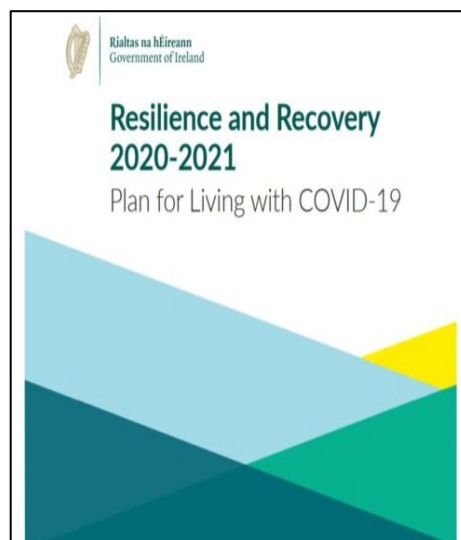
Jackie Maguire
Chief Executive

Covid-19 – Response to Restrictions

Move to Level 5 Restrictions

The decision of the Government to move the country to Level 5 restrictions, under the Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020-2021, on midnight October 21st has had an impact on some of the services of the Council.

However, as a provider of essential services, the Council remains open, most of our services are deemed essential and we are operating at near normal delivery levels for these services. That said a number of services have been impacted and the level of interaction with the public has been reduced to protect the health and wellbeing of staff and to comply with the public health guidance.



Impact on Council Services

Public Counters

We are operating a restricted service at our public counters. Customers are recommended to conduct their business online where possible and if not to make an appointment to meet with one of our Customer Service Team.

Service	Opening Hours – Monday to Friday
Customer Service Counters (Buvinda House)	By Appointment – call 046-9097000 or email
Cash Desk (Buvinda House)	Open for Payments
Planning Counter (Buvinda House)	9am-1pm (queuing system in place)
Motor Tax	Online or by appointment in exceptional cases
Municipal Civic Offices	Closed

Motor Tax

Motor Tax renewals should, in the first instance, be done on-line: www.motortax.ie or by post. The Motor Tax Counter (in Buvinda House) will operate an appointment service for exceptional cases.

Planning Services

Any member of the public wishing to view a current planning file is advised in the first instance to do so online at: <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building>

Only in the event that they cannot, they should make a prior request with the Planning Department to view the file at the public counter in Buvinda House. Customers may have to wait and work with the measures in place to facilitate physical distancing and ensure customer and staff safety. Planning applications and submissions can be made by hand.

Public Consultations

Due to the closure of the Municipal District Offices the following public consultation and Part 8 documents will no longer be available for inspection at the Trim, Ashbourne, Duleek, Kells or Dunshaughlin Civic Offices:

- Part 8 P8/20014 - Ratoath Pedestrian and Cycling Scheme
- Part 8 P8/20012 – N52 Grange to Clontail scheme
- Part 8 P8/20013 – Nobber Fire Station
- Ashbourne Town Appointed Stands (Taxi) Bye-Laws 2020 - Draft

All of these documents can be inspected at <https://consult.meath.ie/> or inspected at the Planning Offices, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan.

Housing Services

The majority of Housing Department services are being provided at regular levels, whilst adhering to physical distancing requirements. All Housing assessments/appointments by Housing Officials, including Housing Officers, Settlement Officers and Social Worker, will continue to be conducted by telephone, negating the need for customers to attend in person to Buvinda House.

Libraries

All library branches across the county will close under Level 5.

The Council's library service will continue to operate its online services see: www.meathlibraries.ie

Swimming Pools

The Kells, Navan and Trim swimming pools will be closed for the duration of the Level 5 restrictions, as will the gyms in Navan and Trim..

Other Services

All other services remain operational, with little impact on service level arising from the Level 5 restrictions.

Corporate Services

Meetings Administration

New Standard Operating Guidance for Council Meetings: A new Standard Operating Guidance (SOG) document has been agreed at national level by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) and the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) that deals with attendance at Council Meetings by Elected Members, Council Officials and others and attendance at other meetings (see Appendix 1).

The new SOG introduces a number of additional measures, which the Council has incorporated as part of a new risk assessment. The most significant change will be the time limit on meetings of 1hr 55mins maximum duration.

Ministerial Order – Remote Participation

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD has signed an order on October 20th, which provides for council meetings and meetings of local authority committees to be held remotely using online platforms. All decisions or votes taken by elected members at such meetings shall have the same status in law as decisions or votes taken during a physical meeting.

Local authorities are encouraged to avail of this option, as required, so as to facilitate participation at meetings and ensure the efficient carrying out of council business while also protecting the health and safety of attendees. Each local authority must make its own standing orders, for the holding of remote meetings, in accordance with Part 6 and Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act 2001.

Corporate News

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020: The Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020 (ELG Awards), sponsored by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, are held to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by local authorities all over Ireland. In October, Chambers Ireland announced the shortlist for the 2020 Awards. The ELG Awards are in their 17th year and the shortlist features a total of 86 local authority projects over 16 categories. A total of six Meath County Council projects are on the shortlist and represent a broad cross-section of the Council’s various departments. The shortlisted projects and their categories are:



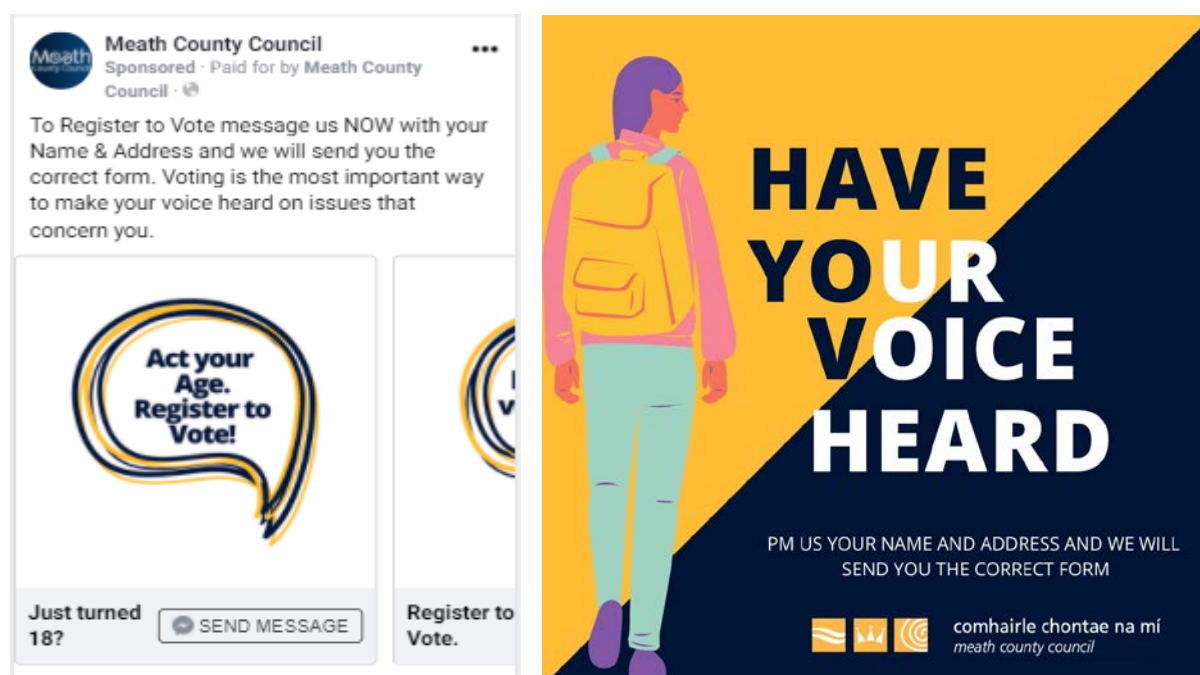
- **Women in Local Government** in Best Practice in Citizen Engagement
- **Sustainable & Healthy Eating Initiative** in Health & Wellbeing
- **Kells Courthouse** in Tourism and Cultural Hub in Supporting Tourism
- **MCC Connect App** in Local Authority Innovation
- **Traveller Genealogy** in Best Library Service
- **Athboy walkability Project and Inclusive Town Developments** in Age Friendly Initiative

This year, the awards will be held online and as a result, the format of the ceremony will be slightly tweaked and hosted by Mary Kennedy at 3:30pm on Thursday, 26 November.

Innovation in Politics Awards 2020: The Age Friendly Housing Technical Specialists in Irish Local Authorities project has been chosen as a finalist in the category Quality of Life in The Innovation in Politics Awards 2020. 1058 jurors from 47 countries selected the project as an outstanding example of political innovation in Europe. Out of 398 entries, it ranked among the 10 best in its field, and among the 90 best in Europe. The winners will be notified on November 9.

Events - Communications

Register to Vote Social Media Campaign: This Facebook and Instagram ad campaign targets 18 to 25 year olds in Meath. The goal of the ad is to encourage users to send a message to the page requesting a form in order to be added to the register.



Each week, the Council has released a post across its social media channels encouraging people to register to vote. To date we have received over 70 requests for forms to be sent to people. This includes change of address requests as well as 18 year olds who want to be included on the register for the first time.

Halloween Safety Campaign: On Monday, October 12 the Council released a video on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube featuring Dunshaughlin Station Fire Officer Fionnán Blake outlining some key safety messages leading-up to Halloween. This was a boosted post, with the following results:

	Reach	Engagements (incl. shares, comments & reactions)
Facebook	14,899	1,583
Twitter	3801 (801 views)	125

The Communications Team has also released the following posts each with a graphic:

September 22 and October 3 - Bonfires are bad for our environment and dangerous for the kids who attend them. Hoarding, Hiding and Storing of materials for bonfires has begun. Do not allow your material to be collected for a bonfire. Report storage of material to environment@meathcoco.ie

October 7 - In 2019, Meath County Council took down 12 bonfires before they were set alight, equating to almost 25 tonnes of waste material, costing the taxpayers of Meath thousands of euros in waste collection and disposal fees. Many of these items were given to the children by adults from garage clearances. Bulky waste should go to a recycling centre or to a permitted skip provider. Keep items such as pallets, furniture, tyres, contents of skips, even wheelie bins out of sight to help avoid bonfires in your area. Never give any of your old household items for use in a bonfire

October 14 - Stay safe this Halloween. Every year Emergency Services, Ambulance Service and Rescue Service answer hundreds of calls over the Halloween period. The team plans to run an ad campaign week starting October 26 generating awareness around fire and fireworks on the 5 days running up to Halloween.

Also, as part of the campaign, the Council's Press Release appeared in the Meath Chronicle (October 14); Fionnán Blake spoke on LMFM The Late Lunch show (on October 15); and October 28th, RTE TV News interviewed Chief Fire Officer Sheila Broderick and Bernadine Carry (Environment) on the issue of bonfires.

An Cathaoirleach Video Messages: In an effort to promote the work of the Council and raise awareness of Council Meetings, the Council will be posting on its social media channels a video of the Cathaoirleach outlining the key points discussed and the decisions taken, after each Council Meeting. The second and third such message were posted after the October monthly meeting and the adjourned Special Planning Meeting.



Housing Services

Capital Programme

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
DESIGN PHASE				
Farganstown	84	24,630,457	Q2 2021	Q4 2022
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
Blackhill Cresent, Donacarney	2	418,369	Q1 2021	Q4 2021
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
Church View, Rathmoylon	9	1,719,002	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	36	10,225,755	-	-
Totals	157	41,916,193		
PART 8 PLANNING PROCESS				
Ashbourne	76	19,730,587	Q1 2021	Q2 2022
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	34	7,996,502	Q3 2021	Q4 2022
Totals	110	27,727, 089		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
Totals	21	4,165,565		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE				
Bettystown (Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Q1 2019	Q4 2020
Kells	40	8,555,683	Q1 2019	Q4 2020
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q4 2020
Lagore, Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q1 2020	Q2 2021
Totals	94	20,515,176		
PROJECTS COMPLETED				
Bettystown (Phase 1)	16	3,437,478	Complete	N/A
Athboy (Phase 1)	32	8,850,320	Complete	N/A
Proudstown Road Navan	4	819,737	Complete	N/A
Summerhill	19	3,854,980	Complete	N/A
Ratoath	17	3,662,700	Complete	N/A
Cortown*	10	6,922,971	Complete	N/A
Kilmainhamwood*	4		Complete	N/A
Oldcastle*	16		Complete	N/A
The Belfry, Trim	3	560,000	Complete	N/A
Totals	121	28,108,186		
GRAND TOTAL	503	122,432,209		

* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

Summary of 2020 Approved Funding Submissions

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING APPROVED €
Dunboyne	Part V	10	2,025,748
Dunshaughlin	Part V	8	2,222,861
Trim	Part V	6	1,549,664
Navan	Part V	5	1,116,500
Drogheda South	Part V	10	2,584,583
New Lane, Navan	Direct Construction	5	985,945
Athboy (Kildalkey Rd)	Direct Construction	20	4,135,500
Meath Women's Refuge	Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	8	2,014,482
Newtown	Rural Dwelling (Disability)	1	237,718
Navan	Turnkey	26	6,362,500
Mornington	Part V	8	2,105,199
Bettystown	Part V	2	507,980
Donacarney	Part V	5	1,305,042
Bettystown	Turnkey	2	575,505
Ashbourne	Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)	20	5,393,367
Duleek	Turnkey	16	4,297,030
Totals		152	37,419,624

Expression of Interest for Turnkey Schemes and/or Lands: There is currently an open call for proposals (no deadline applies) regarding the supply of development sites or completed housing schemes that are fit for purpose for social housing within the County. Details regarding same and required forms can be found on www.etenders.gov.ie or via the following link on Meath.ie <http://bit.ly/EOIHouseSchemesAndOrLand>

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation: Outlined below is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as at 19th October 2020. For the period from 16th September 2020 to 19th October 2020, works were completed on 11 vacant units; while 5 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	1	0	1	2	0
Kells	2	0	5	7	0
Laytown/Bettystown	3	0	**3	6	0
Navan	6	0	**1	7	0
Ratoath	3	1	3	7	0
Trim	3	1	**1	5	0
TOTALS	18	2	14	34	0

Note: **Includes three pre-lets with major renovations aiming to upgrade BER rating to B2.

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects 2017-2021

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	DELIVERY
PIPELINE DELIVERY			
The Bungalows, Dunshaughlin	8	Circle	Delivery Due - Q3 2020
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	24	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	38	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Frederick Manor	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2020
Narrow Ways Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due - Q1 2021
The Maudlins, Trim	9	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q1 2021
Ashewood Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due - Q2 2021
Athboy Road, Navan	63	Respond	Delivery Due - Q3 2021
Ledwidge Hall, Slane	28	Oaklee Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Royal Oaks, Enfield	16	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	49	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
Narrowways, Bettystown	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due –Q1 2022
The Willows, Dunshaughlin	96	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2021
TOTAL UNITS TO BE DELIVERED	367		
UNITS DELIVERED			
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Ardmore, Bettystown	1	North & East Housing	Complete - 2017
Royal Oaks, Enfield (Part V)	4	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Seabury Lawns, Mornington	6	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Kellets Grove, Dunshaughlin (Part V)	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Milltown Meadows, Ashbourne	67	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Emmet Street, Trim	11	North & East Housing	Complete - 2018
Dunville, Navan (30 units Part V)	64	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ceamach Close, Donacarney	16	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018)
Blackcastle, Navan	26	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ashewood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	22	Tuath Housing	Complete 2018/2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2018/2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Complete – 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Complete – 2019
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	Complete – 2019
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Complete - 2019
Gort Fionnbarra, Navan	20	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	20	Respond	Complete – 2019
Dun Eimear, Bettystown	23	Cluid	Complete – 2019
Dunville, Navan	54	Tuath	Complete – 2020
Athboy Road, Trim	25	Oaklee	Complete – 2020
Whitefield Hall, Bettystown	29	Tuath	Complete – 2020
TOTAL UNITS DELIVERED	518		
GRAND TOTAL	885		

Acquisitions: The Council was given approval on 10th September 2020 to acquire 25 second hand units before the end of the year. Sales have been completed on 8 units with a further 12 units at “sale agreed” stage.

Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability: Grants to the value of €1,931,882 have already been awarded by Meath County Council to 280 Households under the various Grants schemes to date in 2020.

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme: Twenty projects completed to date in 2020 (€153,813), with a further 20 task orders issued to contractors (€135,255)

Homeless Service

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 31st August 2020	120 (126 adults)	28 (41 Adults, 63 Children)	148
Placements at 30th September 2020	125 (129)	25 (39 Adults, 56 Children)	150
Of the 25 households with children, 11 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team’s intervention and 7 Families in PMVT Family Hubs. Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is Notice to Quit & unable to a find property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare.			

A total of 343 households presented as homeless to Meath County Council for the period January 1st to August 31st 2020 (221 individual/couples and 122 families). The reasons for presentations were as follows: 121 family breakdown, 83 Notice to Quit, 63 sofa surfing/cannot afford rent, 31 domestic violence, 13 leaving prison/hospital, 12 addiction, 12 mental health and 8 rough sleeping.

Some 131 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service for the period January 1st to September 30th 2020.

Social Housing Supports

A total of 882 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 30th September 2020.

- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January 1st to 30th September 2020.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	205
Approved Housing Bodies	201
RAS	0
HAP	561
TOTAL	967

Planning Services

Planning Applications

A total of 1514 planning applications were received for the period 01.01.2020 to 26.10.2020. This is compared to 1433 in the same period last year.

Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts up to the end of September 2020 are €6,548,898. This is compared to €9,425,357 in the same period last year. (Figures are not inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

Heritage and Conservation:

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020 and Structures at Risk Fund for 2020: Conservation works funded through the above grant streams are currently on-going and due for completion at the end of October.



Thatching of a Protected Structure at Newtown, Trim.

Irish Walled Town Network – Trim: To celebrate 10 years of excavation at the Black Friary in Trim, a series of six videos were curated to give a virtual tour of the site, explain its history and showcase the finds and archaeology discovered to date (www.bafs.ie).

Kells Printworks Project: Funding was received through the *Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme* in September for conservation of a selection of posters as part of the Kells Printworks Archive by a Paper Conservator.

Meath Industrial Heritage Survey: Funding was secured from the Heritage Council to undertake Phase II of the Meath Industrial Heritage Survey. *Archaeology Plan* have been appointed to complete

the survey which will focus on sites in the baronies of Skreen, Navan Upper and Lower, Dunboyne and Ratoath.

National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding: Nine online workshops have been organised throughout October and November to assist community groups and interested individuals with implementing local biodiversity projects and undertaking citizen science projects as part Meath County Council's partnership to the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan*. In collaboration with Birdwatch Ireland several swift boxes have been secured to be used by Tidy Towns groups as biodiversity projects.

Black Friary Community and Heritage Project: The autumn edition of *Archaeology Ireland* published by Wordwell contained a guide to the excavations at Dominican Friary (Heritage Guide No. 90). Award winning Landscape architect Jane McCorkell has completed a landscape plan for the site including the monastic gardens. New interpretative panels have been commissioned and designed – (works completed as part of *Town and Village Renewal Project*).

Transportation

National Roads 2020 funding from TII confirmed - €7,278,918

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	Stage 1 Archaeology Reports finalised. Stage 2&3 Archaeology ongoing. Geotechnical Interpretative Report finalised. Westmeath RDO finalising Tender documents for the main construction contract to be completed in Q4 2020 subject to the necessary approvals/funding. Notice to enter served on all effected landowners.
N2 Slane Bypass	RPS progressing Phase 3 design. Geophysical report being finalised. Site Investigation Contractor commenced early September, for 2 months. Initial landowner meetings commenced 14 th October and are currently ongoing
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	ROD/AECOM design consultants are progressing Phase 2 - Options Selection assessments and surveys. When the Emerging Preferred Option is identified a third public consultation process will take place, now due in Q1 2021
N52 Grange to Clontail	The Part 8 planning application went on public display on the 30 th September 2020. Decision due in Q1, 2021. Atkins the design consultants progressing Phase 3 design.
NS Resurfacing	Resurfacing works are substantially complete on National routes – works at N51 Balmoral, Navan programmed for November 2020

(a) Non- National Roads 2020 funding from DTT&S - € 23,696,867

R162 Kilberry Traffic Calming Scheme – Phase 1	Kerbing and footpath works progressing. Works currently expected to be completed by the end of November
Road Works Programme	Phase 1 – Restoration Improvement contract 80% complete Phase 3 & Phase 4 – Overlay/surface dressing 95% complete Phase 5 – CIS – 90% complete Phase 6 – LIS – 50% complete

DTTAS Climate Change Adaptation Jobs Stimulus Programme 2020 (€517,000): The 5 successful schemes are progressing.

(b) Non- National Roads 2020 - Funding – Other than DTT&S

R154 Kiltale Traffic Calming & Junction Improvement Scheme	Contractor commenced on site in late September. Currently expected to be complete Q2 2021.
LDR6 Kentstown junction to Farganstown, LIHAF Scheme	Scheme expected to be substantially complete by mid November 2020.

Sustainable Transport Measures Grants from NTA Confirmed - € 5,877,000

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Paving works complete at Clarkes Bar, Meath Motor Works and parking reinstated temporarily. Temp traffic management in place on Bridge St & Circular Rd. New kerbing and footpaths installed on Circular Rd. On Abbey Rd roundabout centre islands complete. Paving works on Boreen Keel/Emmett Tce commenced. New
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	watermain connected on Bridge Street. Design work for Ludlow Street, Markey Square, Kennedy Rd and Kennedy Plaza ongoing.
Navan Town Bus Stops	Tenders received (6 No.) and under review. Discussions ongoing with Bus Éireann and NTA regarding likely commencement date and other matters relating to the proposed new N1 & N2 services.
Tender for Installation of Bus Shelters	Tenders for geophysical survey and topographical surveys issued.
Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme	Preliminary design in 2D model completed. Topographical survey completed. Drainage design commenced.
Laytown Park and Ride	Contractor appointed and commenced work on site.
Pedestrian Crossing at Dan Shaw Rd, Navan	Contractor Appointed – Works commencing by end of October

NTA Jobs Stimulus Programme 2020 (€3,105,000): The 38 schemes are progressing and are at various stages including the preparation of contract documents, procurement of contractors, works commenced by contractors, works completed by contractors and works being carried out/completed by our own crews

Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

(DTT&S Grant Allocation outlined above includes €357,000 for Safety Improvement schemes for 2020)

2020 Schemes	Road	MD	Status
Kells Town	R164	Kells	Under construction – 75% complete
Athgaine Cortown	L2813	Kells	Start date 27/10/2020
Drumbaragh	R163	Kells	Under construction – 90% complete
Scottstown Gormanlough	R163	Laytown/Bettystown	Start date to be confirmed
Minnistown Road	L5615	Laytown/Bettystown	Start date 28/10/20
SallyGardens Crossroads	L1625	Laytown/Bettystown	Under construction – 30% complete
Beauparc Junction	L1600	Laytown/Bettystown	Works complete
Newhaggard Road	R161	Trim	Contractor Awarding Process – Start Date 5/11/2020
Oberstown Cross Skyrne	L1005	Ashbourne	Contractor Awarding Process – Start Date 5/11/2020

Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

- Works on the repair of Annesbrooke, Skearke and Kearntown bridges and Clonard, Stoneyford, Anne's & Cornmill bridges ongoing.
- The design of repairs to Kilmainhamwood and Donaghmore retaining walls and embankments are ongoing.
- Repairs to Danestown and Normansgrove culverts scheduled to commence in early November
- Maudlin Bridge works have commenced

Other Actions/Projects

Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	<p>Navan MD Dean Cogan Place: Works 100% complete in early October Kilcarn Court Phase 2: Contractor on site. Approx. 40% complete.</p> <p>Kells MD, Schemes in Kells, (Fr McCullen Park, Moynalty Rd to Fr McCullen Park, Gardenrath Rd); Athboy (Church View & St Joseph Villas housing estates) and Nobber (O Carolan Park) at Survey/Design stage.</p> <p>Ashbourne MD – Proposed Schemes in Ardath (Church View Housing Estate); Stamullen (Mountain View Housing Estate entrance); Bellewstown (Woodview Estate) at tender stage, tender closing end of October.</p> <p>Trim MD –. Works completed in Longwood Village from Post Office to New Houses on Clonard Rd. Contractor commencing footpath extension from Baynefield to Industrial Estate, Enfield late October</p> <p>Ratoath MD Scheme from Arkle House to Supervalu on the R-125 (Dunshaughlin Rd) & R-155 (Well Rd) -Tender being awarded, works due to commence 9/11/2020 Footpath works from MD offices to GAA grounds on L-2208-1 (Drumree Rd Dunshaughlin) commencing 27/10/20 -approx 2 wk programme.</p> <p>Laytown/ Bettystown MD - Coney Hall Mornington at Tender assessment stage</p>
Milltown Rd/Ashbourne-Rd Safety Improvement Scheme	<p>Road closure in place October 11th-30th. Works should be substantially complete by end of November 2020</p>
(DCYA) Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play & Recreation 2020	<p>Clogherboy Playground Refurbishment – Contractor appointed. Intended start date late October.</p>
Anti-Dumping Initiative Funded Works - Navan	<p>Kilcarn Court/Beaufort Old Railway Walk Improvement Works – Works completed in mid October</p>
Oldcastle Pedestrian Crossings	<p>Works complete – Awaiting ESB to energise the flashing beacons and Public Lighting elements</p>
R135 Cycle Network Design	<p>Preliminary design forwarded to the NTA for review / comments. Topographical and Utility Services completed</p>
Town & Village Renewal Scheme	<p>Johnstown Village Traffic Calming Works Application for grant funding not successful</p> <p>Ramparts Boyne Walk Refurbishment Application for grant funding successful. Gone to Tender on 16/10/2020. Intention is to commence works by end of the year.</p>

Environment

River Basin Management Plan

Drafting of the 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan (for the period 2022 – 2027) is underway. The draft plan will be published by the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) in December 2020, which will be subject to extensive public consultation before the final plan is published Dec 2021. The EPA provides technical input and advice to DHLGH on the plan content, for example in updating the characterisation of pressures and impacts on water status.

The Local Authorities and the Local Authority Waters Programme (**LAWPRO**) have coordinated on proposals for Areas for Action where targeted measures to improve or protect water status are to be taken in the 3rd cycle.

These proposals were finalised in October and will be included in the draft plan.

In carrying out its further characterisation role for the draft plan, the EPA has advised there has been a deterioration in water quality nationally, with a higher number of waterbodies currently at risk of failing WFD objectives than in the 2nd cycle.

From a Meath-specific viewpoint, EPA data to 2018 indicates Meath fared better than the national average, with net improvements in water status, however Meath rivers such as R. Boyne are also showing a trend of increasing nutrients since circa 2013.

Revised grant scheme for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Septic Tanks etc) and Private Water Supplies (Wells)

Grants for DWWTS (National Inspection Plan) - grant scheme towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic wastewater treatment system under the EPA's National Inspection Plan.

Grants for DWWTS (Prioritised Areas for Action under the RBMP) - grant scheme towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic wastewater treatment system situated in a Prioritised Area for Action in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021.

Grants for DWWTS (High Status Objective Catchment Areas under the RBMP) - grant scheme towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic waste water treatment system in a High Status Objective Catchment Area in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021.

General rules applying to the DWWTS Grants schemes - Grant rate of 85% of the eligible costs of remediation, repair or upgrading works, or replacement of any such system or €5,000, whichever is the lower. Means test requirement removed.

Grants for Private Water Supplies (Wells) -- revised grant scheme towards the carrying out of improvement works to a private water supply. Provision of a new well: 85% of the approved costs for the provision of a new well, subject to a maximum of €5,000. For rehabilitation works: 85% of the approved costs for rehabilitation works, subject to a maximum of €3,000. For treatment works: 100% of the approved costs for works that, in the opinion of the housing authority, are necessary to treat the water to meet the water quality standards specified in the Regulations, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. Examples of such treatments are filtration or Ultra Violet treatment.

Impacts of Covid 19 on the Waste Sector

The Regional Waste Management Plan Offices have produced an interim report on the impacts of Covid 19 on the waste sector and with the main findings for Q3 2020 being:

- Residual Waste Generation is down 90,000 tonnes compared to the same period last year
- Export has reduced substantially compared to same period last year
- Thermal Recovery has increased slightly compared to same period last year
- Landfill Disposal has decreased compared to same period in 2019
- No Planning or Licencing infrastructural decisions have been made in Q3
- Municipal Solid Waste - That the structures and relationships in place ensured essential services continued and that there was a robust, reliable and resilient response of the sector to the crisis particularly in the early stages.
- There are no current issues arising from Covid with collections, treatment exports etc returning to normal but the situation will be monitored closely during the Phase 5 restrictions.
- Construction and Demolition Waste - Covid shutdown had a significant impact on the C & D sector with overall activity likely to be down by about 30% on expectations.
- Capacity available nationally for soil and stone but some issues on capacity for non hazardous, non-inert and C& D Fines.

Environmental Initiatives

Green Schools: The annual Green Schools Seminar will take place (online) in November for all schools in Meath, in conjunction with An Taisce Green Schools.

Re Love Fashion: All secondary schools in Meath have been invited to take part in the Sustainable Textile Competition, competing with schools in Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare, Laois, Westmeath, Longford and DLR. Much of the competition will be online in 2020 with the final in the Rediscovery Centre in Spring 2021.

Stop Food Waste Challenge: Meath County Council worked with Laois, Westmeath and Wicklow County Council and the EPA's Stop Food Waste to undertake a regional Stop Food Waste Challenge over a 4 week period in July and August.

A series of Stop Food Waste Challenge videos screened every Sunday over the period, with an online Q&A hosted live every Wednesday afternoon. The Campaign had 210,000 online hits over the period which also included radio and press also.

The aim of the campaign is to encourage people to make small changes to the way they consume food, in order to make a large difference to food waste.

Paint Collection: The collection of old or unused paint has resumed at all Meath Recycling Facilities.

Paint Reuse Scheme: Meath County Council has been successful in acquiring funding from the LAPN for a Paint Reuse project in conjunction with the Rediscovery Centre. The project will be rolled out over the next 12 months and will see unused paint diverted from disposal for resale and reuse. Paint will be collected at the Recycling Centres; reusable paint will then be sent to the Rediscovery Centre for repotting and resale. Meath County Council will examine the possibility of acting as a depot or collection location for reusable paint.

Community

Governance Structures

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC): A meeting of the LCDC took place on Friday 23rd October 2020 with SICAP KPI's for 2021 and the election of a new chair of the LCDC on the agenda.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020: Meeting of the LAG also took place on Friday 23rd October 2020. 4 projects totalling €47,814 were presented for approval to the LAG and bringing the budget to 87% committed with 22% of the value of grants paid to promoters.

Age Friendly County programme (AF): The Older People's Council (OPC) co-ordinated initiatives with other sections of the County Council for Positive Ageing Week at the end of September/October, which included music and songs from Trim Library, Bio-diversity seminars with the Heritage section, as well as Tai Chi and Meditation classes. A face to face meeting with the OPC was held on September 22nd, where the Climate Action officer gave an update and two sub-groups were set up: on reviewing application forms and on Climate Change.

Public Participation Network (PPN): The PPN is continuing to support member groups working to develop the participation and representation objectives of the network. Meath PPN linked with Eirgrid to provide a webinar for PPN members on the Kildare Meath Grid upgrade. A review of the priorities for the Digital Strategy for the PPN was completed in light of Covid 19.

Comhairle na nÓg: The Comhairle online AGM took place on Friday October 23, 2020. All 23 schools in Meath were asked to participate including the elected members. The young people are also preparing for an online Showcase, where all 31 Comhairlí will showcase the work they have completed in the past year. This will be both a physical and online event which will take place in November, restrictions permitting.

Public Sector Duty: The working group for the implementation of the statutory Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty met on October 14th, through a virtual workshop to progress a workplan for 2021. Workshops are scheduled virtually for November and December.

Grant Schemes

Carranstown Grant Scheme: The next meeting is scheduled for November to review progress on the current scheme and plan for the next scheme.

Knockharley Grant Scheme: The walking track within the Kentstown Village project is open for the public to utilise. An opening date to officially open the facility is being finalised.

CLÁR 2020: Six applications were submitted to the DRCD for consideration and await the announcement of these.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020

Accelerated Measure Covid - Round 3 (additional measure announced on 7th August): 6 applications were approved by the DRCD under this measure.

Applicant	Grant Amount
Slane & Kells	40,000
Nobber	40,000
Donore & Duleek	25,000
31 Towns & Villages	25,000
Navan	40,000
Bettystown	40,000
Total	€210,000

Standard Town & Village Scheme: 10 applications were submitted for consideration to the DRCD by the 30th September 2020.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020

Five applications under Measure 1 were submitted for consideration to the DRCD by 30th September.

Community Amenity Project Scheme 2020

Offer letters have issued to 19 Groups across the county for projects with a total value of €631,965.00. Projects to be completed by December 2021.

Regional Festivals & Participative Events Grant Scheme 2020

Some events that were awarded funding were unable to proceed due to Covid or went ahead on a smaller scale with funding to be drawn down by year end.

Broadband

WIFI4EU: The access points in Kells have been connected and the service was launched on the 15th October. County Meath Chambers are now engaging with businesses in Navan to agree sites to host access points.



National Broadband Plan: Surveying for the National Broadband Plan in parts of Laytown-Bettystown was completed at the start of October.

The National launch of the Broadband Connection Points was held in South Dublin due to Covid 19 restrictions. There are now five sites connected in county Meath - Cormeen Sports Complex, Meath Hill GAA, Teach Raithneach, Castletown GAA and the Meath GAA Centre of Excellence. Other sites will be connected by the end of 2020.

Libraries Service

Libraries

Service Up-date: Due to Level 5 restrictions all twelve branches in the county are now closed again for browsing and lending. The service is also required to cease operation of the 'Contact and Collect' model. There were 26,000 items issued in September, despite the restrictions around access and the minimum services on offer. Online issues accounted for c.5, 000 of the items issued and it is expected that these levels will be maintained during the next phase of lockdown.

Online services will continue to be available. It is possible to:

- join the library online;
- download eBooks and eAudiobooks;
- read magazines and newspapers
- take eLearning or language courses;
- watch or listen to storytimes; or,
- take part in other activities like online quizzes.

Sensory Facilities: The 'Magic Tables' at various branches including Ashbourne, Navan and Trim remained operational during Phase 3 and proved particularly welcoming and well booked spaces at a time when services were generally restricted in the disability sector.

'Magic Tables' have been recently installed at Dunshaughlin and Ráth Chairn libraries.

Two new 'Sensory Pods' have been installed at Ashbourne and Oldcastle libraries with funding from the Department of DRCD (Ashbourne) and Creative Ireland (Oldcastle).

Trim Library: As Trim library will be vacating the premises at High Street to enable the building of the new Library and Cultural Centre, an alternative facility is being developed at Mill Street. The temporary premises will be considerably smaller but it will offer access to almost all of the existing services. The move is due to take place in November.

Economic Development and Tourism

Shop Front Scheme

Meath County Council's Economic Development section has launched the "Shop Front Scheme" designed to assist retailers affected by Covid-19 Closures. Covid-19 has caused massive disruption to the retail sector, which is heavily reliant on face to face contact with consumers. This funding is being provided from the Economic Development Make It Meath fund, in recognition of the fact that a building's facade makes a big impact on our town centres.

- Proposals for funding do not have to involve a significant or expensive change. Simple jobs like repainting a shop front, replacing a shop sign or window dressing improvement may qualify.
- Each application will be assessed on its own merits and any job that will enhance the town's character may qualify for grant aid which is 50% of the eligible costs to a maximum of €5,000.

The take up of the scheme will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Overview of Activity

Activity	Approvals
Mentoring Assignments	17
Trading Online Vouchers Approved	45
Business Continuity Voucher Approved	1
Training Participants	148
Training Online Voucher Seminars Attended	50

Tourism

Marketing and Promotion: Meath County Council and Boyne Valley Tourism are working closely with the tourism industry to continue to support them through these challenging times.

The **Rediscover the Boyne Valley marketing campaign** reached a total of 350,000 people over seven weeks. This campaign moved to a new message to *Stay Local and Rediscover Your Boyne Valley* during level 3 and ceased with Level 5 restrictions on October 22nd. Promotion has now turned to local food businesses and outdoor amenities. The Last Duel filming at Bective shone a spotlight on Meath in early October and brought some much-needed positive PR.

Despite the **Púca Festival** not proceeding this Halloween, we are liaising with Fáilte Ireland on a virtual media event. A new promotional video highlighting the three Samhain locations of Trim, Athboy and Drogheda will be released on Halloween night. A virtual media event will take place with media across 13 markets including US, Europe, the Nordics and UK through Tourism Ireland where local Boyne Valley produce, and Boyne Valley Samhain traditions will be narrated.

A Synopsis of Budget 2021 Schemes for tourism businesses

- CRSS scheme for businesses with weekly rebates
- Extension of the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme for 2021
- Vat rate for hospitality from 13.5% ↓ 9%
- Extension of commercial rates waiver to end 2020
- €55mn in strategic business tourism support (details to be announced)

Finance Section

Commercial Rates

Restart Grant Scheme: This scheme commenced on the 22nd May 2020 and ceased on the 22nd July 2020. 1342 applications were made, 1,240 of these have been paid to a value of €4.74m. Of the remaining 102, 101 were refused, withdrawn or duplicated applications and one is awaiting further information.

Restart Grant Plus Scheme: This scheme commenced on Monday 10th August 2020. 588 new applications have been received, 326 of which have been paid €2.62m. A declaration has issued to the 1,240 previous successful applicants under the Restart Grant Scheme, 1,233 have responded and €6.52m has been paid.

In total €13.88m has been paid to businesses in Meath regarding the Restart Grant and Restart Grant Plus.

The recently announced Restart Grant Plus top up of 30% is currently being applied to over 1,600 eligible accounts and paid automatically this will equate to over €2.8m.

Those that received the Restart Grant Plus and did not apply for the original Restart Grant and would have been eligible, will be contacted by Meath County Council to appeal this, (after the 30% top up is applied). It is expected that approximately 380 applicants will respond with a potential €1.2m or more payable.

Six Months Rates Waiver Scheme: This was announced on the 23rd July 2020 and this waiver is currently being applied to all customers' accounts automatically that meet the relevant criteria. At present the waiver has been applied to 3788 properties to the value of €11.8m and the process has been completed.

An additional 3 months has been applied to the Rates Waiver Scheme. These are currently being processed. It will lead to approximately another €6m in credits being applied to customer accounts.

Loans and Rents

Housing Loans: The 3 month mortgage payment break has been expanded to a possible 9 month payment break. The assessment, processing and engagement with customers is ongoing.

An update from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is awaited to address the present criteria of 2 years continuous employment in relation to Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans home loan applications. This has a great impact on prospective applicants due to the Covid 19 situation.

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 22nd October 2020	
Applications Received	376
Applications Returned	16
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	4
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	356
Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	8
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	7
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	214
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	127
	356
Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase (includes restructuring)	158
No of customers in MARP	34

Rents: Meath County Council operates a Differential Rents Scheme, where notified of income reduction or increase a tenants rent is adjusted accordingly in line with this scheme.

Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR)

The level of applications for certificates remains constant, all issued within the 14 day limit, once the application is in order. There is no back log of applications.

APPENDIX 1



Standard Operating Guidance Attendance at Council Meetings by Elected Members & Council Officials / Others (Media & Public) and attendance at other meetings or Council Buildings.

Date: 25th September 2020

Version: 1.0

Potential Hazards

- Contamination with COVID-19 virus.
- Spread of COVID-19 virus.
- Coming into contact with someone who has the virus and is coughing and sneezing. Close contact includes face to face contact; spending more than 15 minutes within two metres of an infected person or living with an infected person.
- Touching surfaces that an infected person has coughed or sneezed on.
- Inability to maintain physical distancing requirements in line with public health advice
- Contact with bodily fluids.

COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Procedures



Pre-Meeting Considerations

- Maximum occupancy and seating capacities to be assessed to ensure the recommended physical distancing of 2m can be achieved for meeting venue.
- Capacity will depend on the venue and the ability to physically distance and ensure other protective measures are in place. Availability and capacity of public gallery should be considered.

- The overall numbers at any one time within the meeting facility should be in accordance with the Government's Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19, which can be accessed at:
<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/resilience-recovery-2020-2021-plan-for-living-with-covid-19/>
- Venue size and seating capacity will dictate the number of media, and public (if any) in attendance.
- If meeting is being hosted in an external venue check local guidelines in place.
- Ensure welfare facilities / hand sanitiser / wipes available at or adjacent to the meeting room.
- COVID-19 Self Declaration form to be sent electronically to all attendees in advance of meeting.
- On the day of the meeting and prior to the meeting, all attendees to complete COVID Self Declaration Form to determine the following questions (*if the answer to any one or more of the questions is Yes – that person should not attend the meeting*).
 1. Do you have symptoms of cough, fever, high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, breathlessness, flu like symptoms or loss or change to your sense of smell or taste now or in the past 14 days?
 2. Have you been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days?
 3. Are you a close contact of a person who has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days (less than two metres for more than 15 minutes accumulative in one day)?
 4. Have you been advised by a doctor to self-isolate at this time?
 5. Have you been advised by a doctor to cocoon at this time?
 6. Have you returned into Ireland from a non-green list country in the last 14 days?
- COVID-19 Self Declaration Form to be returned to the Meeting Administrator prior to the meeting.
- Ensure attendees are advised that they must not attend the meeting if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or feel unwell (or suspect they have been exposed to COVID-19).
- Ensure a response plan is prepared, in line with the Government's Return to Work Safely Protocol, in the event that someone at the meeting becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Vulnerable or those who the HSE categorise as being very high risk may be facilitated to access the meeting remotely if they so request, however they must be advised that they will not have voting rights if accessing meeting remotely.

Meeting Room Considerations

- Ensure adequate welfare facilities / hand sanitiser / wipes available at or adjacent to the meeting room.
- Display COVID-19 posters prominently.
- Ensure cleaning schedule in place.
- Ensure meeting room is set up to facilitate 2m physical distancing.

- Provide one-way systems for access/egress routes where practicable.
- Keep meeting rooms well ventilated during use ideally through open windows.
- No tea/ coffees or food.
- No roaming mics.

At the Meeting

- Wash/sanitise hands before going into the meeting.
- Attendees should access the meeting room at the designated time and not earlier.
- Attendees to adhere to the 2m physical distancing and follow the public health advice in relation to hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Access to the meeting room should be controlled with only those on the attendance list permitted access.
- A record of attendees and contact details must be kept for contact tracing purposes. Use of own pen for sign in or alternatively one person to record contact details.
- Attendees to be encouraged to bring minimal personal belongings into the meeting room to avoid risk of contamination.
- Chair must inform all attendees at the start of the meeting the COVID-19 control measures in place.
- Ensure attendees are aware of the response plan in place in the event that someone at the meeting becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms.
- It is recommended that a face covering is worn on entering and leaving the building and until attendee enters seat.
- No congregation in the building before or after the meeting.
- Meeting of members in venue before or after meeting to be actively discouraged.
- Strictly **no** Hand Shaking (or any physical contact).
- Aim to keep hardcopy document handling to the absolute minimum, use of electronic means as an alternative, where possible.
- Reflecting best practice, time of attendance at meeting to be kept to a minimum and within a recommended maximum of 1 hour 55 minutes. Chair to outline at the start and advise of meeting finish time.
- Standing orders may need to be amended to accommodate these new time restrictions.
- Chair to consider allocation of time to agenda items to get through the agenda in the allotted time and to advise the members in advance.
- It is recommended that the Chair and members give consideration to the effective and efficient management of Motion of Motions e.g.:
 - Only the Proposer and the Seconder to speak to a Notice of Motion.
 - If the Proposer is happy with the written reply, the matter is then concluded and move on.
 - Written replies by the Executive to Notice of Motions to be shared with all Members at commencement of meeting preferably by electronic means.

Attendance at Council Buildings

- Attendance at Council buildings should only be for essential business reasons. Technological alternatives (email, phone or video conferencing) to be used as much as possible.
- If attending Council buildings, it should be by pre-arranged appointment if possible and Council Officials should make every effort to accommodate Elected Members in this regard.
- If attending at Council buildings Elected Members should limit their movements.
- Elected members should avoid contact with any Council employees other than those directly related to their visit.
- It is recommended that a face covering is worn when moving through Council buildings.
- Elected Members attendance at Council buildings and interactions with staff should be recorded for contact tracing purposes, as required.
- Adhere to public health advice in relation to hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Maintain a 2m distance with interactions with employees or members of the public
- Keep durations of interactions to a minimum.

Monitoring of Arrangements

- Covid-19 arrangements on site to be monitored regularly by the relevant Manager.

If you are feeling unwell or displaying symptoms, self-isolate and make phone contact with your GP and Meeting Administrator / Line Manager